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Fall 2008

Fall 2008 DigSight Newsletter

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Institute of Archaeology
Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum

“Faces of Power” Premieres at Southern

On October 8 the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum welcomed 250 student, faculty, and community visitors who came to see the special exhibition, “Faces of Power: Ancient Coins of the Biblical World,” on its opening night. Several months of careful planning and nearly \$20,000 were spent on the production of the Museum’s first special exhibition since its opening in 2004.

Focusing on the monetary, political, and cultural power of coins, the exhibit highlights the use of coinage as a propaganda tool by the Roman emperors of the New Testament period. “Circulating farther and longer than the best newspaper, coins effectively carried their message long after their issuer was gone,” said Justo Morales, museum coordinator. Jesus also used coins as an aid to the delivery of his message—the good news of the kingdom of heaven. “The parables Jesus told through coins were more memorable than all of the



great accomplishments of Rome,” said Dr. Michael Hasel, museum curator. The exhibit showcases both imperial coinage and a varied collection of biblical coins.

In the past two months since the exhibition opened, hundreds of visitors have poured into the museum including university, high school, middle and elementary school students, church groups, and community visitors. One theology student, Juan Martinez, remarked, “As I looked into the sculpted busts of Augustus and Nero, the Bible suddenly became so real. These powerful rulers not only influenced the New Testament world, but were alive when Jesus and Paul walked through the streets of Jerusalem and Rome.” Clay Perez, an archaeology major, commented, “It is amazing that these are the same kinds of coins that Jesus and his disciples held in their hands. What a great way to learn about the life and teachings of Jesus!”

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Did You Know?

Judas’ thirty pieces of silver, the poor widow’s mites, the tribute penny, the lost coin: These are some examples of silver and bronze coins from Jesus’ time currently on display at the special exhibition, “Faces of Power: Ancient Coins of the Biblical World.”



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

“Faces of Power” Premieres, cont.

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The coins on display were acquired on loan from several private and museum collections. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of donors. “Faces of Power” will be on display through May of 2009. The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular museum hours. The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum is located in Hackman Hall in the campus of Southern Adventist University. For more information, visit [our website](#) or call 423.236.2088 to schedule a tour.



Portraiture in the Ancient World

Museum Lecture, October 8



Alexander the Great

Following the special exhibition's two-hour grand opening, visitors were invited to the inaugural lecture of the academic year given by Dr. Jasper Gaunt from Emory University.

The lecture, entitled “Faces of Power: Portraiture in the Greco-Roman World,” dealt with the early uses of portraiture beginning with the Classical and Hellenistic eras.

Dr. Gaunt began by looking at the way the ancient Greeks used portraiture. Thousands of years before the first photograph, Greek artists learned to immortalize their heroes in portraits. While the Greeks did not invent the art of portraiture, they were the first to fully exploit its many uses. Rather than accurately reflecting a person's image, most ancient portraits were depictions of an ideal. The main purpose of portraiture was to convey a message. This message was often propagandistic. The first person in the Greek world to use portraiture as propaganda was Alexander the Great. Alexander's portraits in sculpture and coins proclaimed to the world his divine ancestry, military might, and magnanimous spirit.

Imperial Rome continued the Greek tradition of idealized portraiture. The emperor is always portrayed as a youthful, larger-than-life individual. A full-length portrait of the emperor in armor conveys an image of military prowess, while a veiled and robed statue denotes the emperor's liturgical and senatorial offices. “Everything from the beard to the hair was idealized,” asserted Gaunt. However, Roman artists were more careful than their Greek predecessors in depicting the most characteristic features of their patrons. For example, it is possible

to identify certain busts based on the coin portraits.

Gaunt's lecture was well received by faculty and students. “Dr. Gaunt's lecture greatly enhanced the knowledge of Roman art for art history students. It was a great compliment to what we offer here,” said Giselle Hasel, art history professor who studied under Gaunt at Emory. Janelle Junn, a fine arts student, was pleased with the insights she gained at the lecture: “Sculpture is the one thing that comes to mind when I think of portraits. I never knew the Romans were also masters of miniature art.” Gaunt himself was particularly impressed by the amount of student interest in his lecture and the exhibit: “I was surprised by the large turnout . . . and by the intelligent questions. It is good to hear that the students found something to enjoy in the presentation.”

Gaunt is curator of Greek and Roman art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum located at Emory University, Atlanta, GA. He is also adjunct professor of art history at Emory's graduate school. Gaunt received his B.A. and M.A. from Oxford University, with the Edwards Prize for Greek and Latin Literature. He worked for several years at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK. He furthered his education at New York University receiving a second M.A. and then his Ph.D. under Dieter von Bothmer. Gaunt has published four books and numerous articles, and is widely known for his expertise in Greek ceramics and vase paintings.



Dr. Jasper Gaunt

Portraiture in the Ancient World, cont.

Museum Lecture, November 6

Dr. Pamela Gaber from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, delivered the second museum lecture of the academic year on November 6. Following the special exhibition's theme, the lecture, entitled "History of Portraiture: From Egypt to Rome," explored the topic of ancient portraiture and iconography.

Gaber traced the development of portraiture from its beginnings in ancient Egypt down to Roman times. Portraits are either stylized or naturalistic (true to life). Ancient portraiture, for the most part, was stylized in look. We used to think that stylization came first but then we discovered that verism was better. In other words, portraiture followed an evolutionary progression from the primitive to the sophisticated. However, "it's not just a matter of progression through time," Gaber explained. While stylization came first, naturalistic portraits have existed at various times in history, often alternating between stylization and verism.

In the beginning "there was a universal impulse to stylize." Early portraiture shows no attempt to define individual traits. Portraits were formulaic. In Mesopotamia, for example, a seated statue of the

king identified the ruler as divine. Yet the statue bore little resemblance to the king. Similarly, in Egypt the pharaoh's face was always depicted with the same features. It did not matter what the king looked like, what mattered was what the king was *supposed* to look like.

There were a few exceptions to this trend in Egypt. Notably, during the Amarna period, under Akhenaten's reign,



Akhenaten

Egyptian artists broke with tradition and portrayed members of the royal family with unique features. Though stylization was still the rule, the Amarna iconography was one of the first attempts to show people as they really appeared.

On the other side of the Mediterranean, Greek artists obtained their conception of portraiture from the Egyptians. The famous statues of Kleobis



Kleobis and Biton

and Biton, for example, are not intended to be lifelike representations of the historical figures. These statues are ideal representations of the virtues of masculine strength and piety. "The Greek tradition was idealization par excellence," explained Gaber. "There was no attempt to show mobility of features or individuality."

This changes during the Roman Republic. Thanks to the cult of the ancestors and the Roman predilection for death masks, Romans felt compelled to portray their ancestors realistically. The person's features are faithfully recorded in sculpted busts and statues. For the first time, artists were not afraid to depict their patron's imperfections, such as wrinkles or other flaws. Yet, by the end of the Roman period, the tendency for stylization returns, giving way to medieval portraiture, which is as strictly idealized as the earliest Egyptian or Mesopotamian art.

Gaber is professor of archaeology and Judaic studies at Lycoming College, Williamsport, PA. She received her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and then went on to Harvard University where she completed her M.A. in art history and Ph.D. in ancient art and archaeology. She has taught at the University of New Hampshire and at the University of Arizona. Gaber has published a book and numerous articles on the art and archaeology of Cyprus, where she has been excavating since 1972.

Dever Library Opening and Banquet



Dr. William G. Dever

On November 5 the William G. Dever Research Library opening was celebrated with a banquet and open house honoring one of America's foremost Near Eastern archaeologists. Nearly a hundred university administrators, professors, donors, and guests celebrated together the culmination of a dream that had begun a decade earlier.

Dever first visited Southern's campus in November 1999. In January, 2000, Southern Adventist University received one of the largest teaching collections of ancient Near Eastern artifacts in North America. Dever, professor emeritus of Near Eastern archaeology and anthropology at the University of Arizona, decid-

ed to place his teaching collection at Southern after the largest Ph.D. program in Near Eastern archaeology was closed. At that time Dever discussed the possibility that his professional library might accompany the artifact collection one day. Although he received many offers from other academic institutions, Dever felt that his artifacts would be best studied together with his library. In March of this year the Dever library arrived on campus.

In 2005 Dr. Kenneth Mathews was introduced to Southern's archaeology program. Mathews' interest in archaeology soon grew from the occasional charitable gift to a full-fledged involvement. Mathews not only enrolled in the B.A. program in archaeology, but also founded the Archaeology Synchronisms Research Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to expand the research potential of the Institute of Archaeology. In 2007 Mathews purchased a large



Dr. Dever and Dr. Kenneth Mathews

portion of the personal library of Kent Weeks, a world-renowned Egyptologist, who in 1995 discovered the largest tomb in the Valley of the Kings. In addition, Mathews, through his foundation, has added hundreds of volumes in the fields of Egyptology, Near Eastern, and Classical studies.

These library collections make up the William G. Dever Research Library, which currently holds more than 2,500 volumes, not including nearly 20 journals and periodicals. "These collections are

a tremendous resource for the Institute of Archaeology to conduct its research programs, as well as for students and visiting scholars from other institutions," said Dr. Michael Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology. The Dever Library is presently one of the most comprehensive collections of Egyptian and



Dr. Bob Young (left) and Dr. Greg King (right) enjoy a good time at the opening banquet of the Dever Library.

Continued on page 6

Dever Library Opening, cont.



Dr. Ward Swarner and Dr. Mathews in the New Dever Library

Continued from page 5

Near Eastern archaeology books in the southeastern United States.

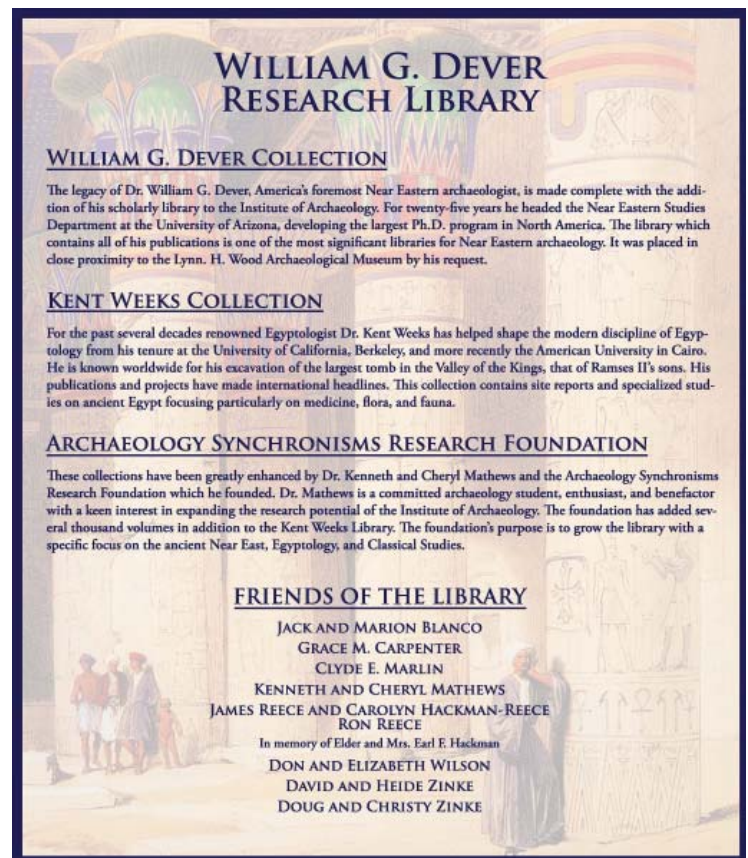
In his remarks on November 5, Dever expressed his appreciation for the way the Institute of Archaeology had made use of his personal library. "I knew that Michael [Hasel] would fulfill his promise to make the best use of my books, and he has," Dever said. He reminded the University administration of the responsibility that accompanies these collections and encouraged future growth in terms of personnel and faculty. Mathews challenged those present to be involved with the future plans and initiatives of the Institute of Archaeology as it continues to do research and, in particular, fund an excavation.

The Dever Library is a non-circulating resource available to Southern's students, faculty, and

visiting scholars from other universities. "The library serves as a nice complement to the other facilities and resources in the Institute of Archaeology and the School of Religion," said dean of the School of Religion, Dr. Greg King. "It will continue to enhance and enrich our program." Others are just as thrilled to have such an invaluable research aid. "Without these books and journals, we would have to rely on other libraries and interlibrary loans to do the

research necessary for our excavation projects," added Justo Morales, museum coordinator. "It is a privilege to have such rare volumes at our disposal." Many of the library's books have been out of print for more than a century and would cost thousands of dollars to replace, if one could even locate them.

The Institute is currently working with the McKee Library staff to integrate the Dever Library with McKee's online database in order to make this resource more accessible to students and the scholarly community. The Dever Library is housed in Hackman Hall, adjacent to the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and the archaeological laboratory.



A Time to Give

As the holiday season comes again this year, we have so many things to be grateful for. As you can see this has been an exciting year for the Institute of Archaeology and the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. We have now opened the William G. Dever Research Library which gives access to thousands of new books and journals on the cutting edge of Biblical Studies, Egyptology, and Archaeology. Hundreds of people are visiting the new exhibit "Faces of Power" that was opened in October and will continue through to May. Our staff has worked diligently over summer months and this autumn. Twenty-five volunteer docents keep the museum open to the public free of charge six days a week.

None of these major projects would have been possible without the generous gifts which have come from friends who believe in the mission of conducting quality scientific research that illuminates and enriches our understanding of the Bible and the Biblical world. The fact is that the entire exhibit, the library books and slides (worth over \$200,000.00), their cataloguing, the library opening banquet, student personnel, photography, design, quality experts that are brought to speak for our Museum Lecture Series, this newsletter—all of this is the result of your gifts. No tuition revenue, no special university allocated budgets have been used for these projects. We are most grateful and dependent on people like you who make these educational resources available. Please consider our needs of completing our goal of \$50,000 to raise another \$18,580.00 for the Museum Fund this year. Times may be difficult, but there is no better time in earth's history to support the message and it's proclamation in all venues of the work!

A Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year,



Dr. Michael G. Hasel



Director, Institute of Archaeology

I am interested in Biblical Archaeology and would like the opportunity to support the Institute of Archaeology in the following area(s):

- ☐ Institute of Archaeology \$ _____
- ☐ Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum \$ _____
- ☐ Archaeological Excavation & Publication \$ _____

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City, State, Zip _____

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Card# _____

Exp. Date ____/____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

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(made payable to Southern Adventist University)

Mail to: Institute of Archaeology
Southern Adventist University
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315

Recent Publications

The first mention of Israel outside of the Bible is found on the Merenptah stela, a monument carved for Pharaoh Merenptah, the son of the famous Ramses II. In a symposium sponsored by Andrews University in 2004, Dr. Michael Hasel presented a paper dealing with this important inscription. Revisionist scholars are trying to completely revise the origin of Israel today. Hasel reminds those who wish to reconstruct the origin of Israel that they cannot ignore this important text that places the people of Israel already in the land of Canaan by 1209 BC. This article has now been published in a new book, entitled *Critical Issues in Early Israelite History*, ed. Richard Hess, Gerald Kling-

beil, and Paul J. Ray (Eisenbrauns, 2008), pp. 47-59 ([read it here](#)). It builds on the previous works that Dr. Hasel has published relating to the important issues of ancient Egyptian connections with the land of Canaan around 1200 BC.

One of the vexing issues in biblical studies concerns the laws of warfare

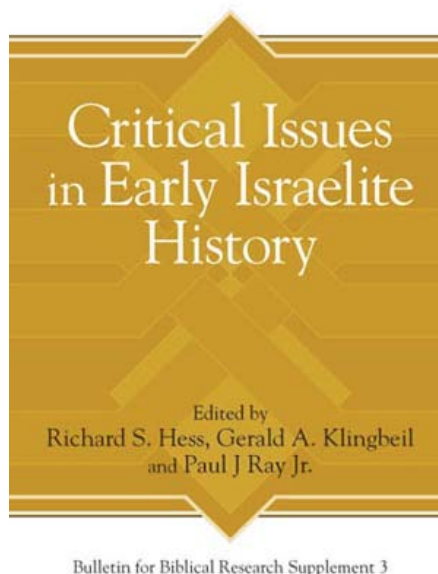
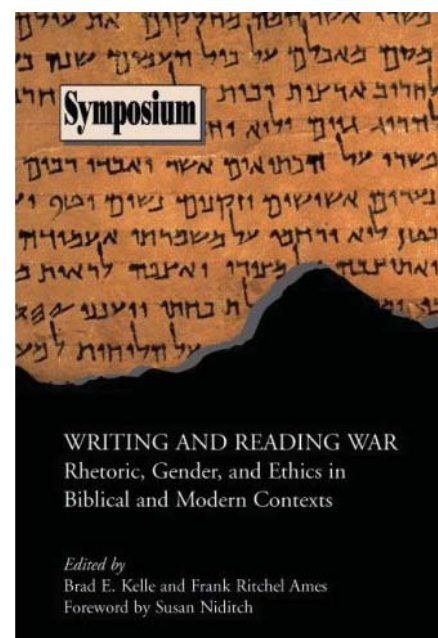
in the book of Deuteronomy. Many critical scholars have argued that these laws were not written until the seventh century BC and that they correspond to the kind of military tactics found in Assyrian records of that time. The Assyrians invaded Israel in 722 BC and again in 701 BC during the campaign of Sennacherib. As a military historian, Hasel went back to the original texts and reliefs of the Assyrian campaigns to investigate whether this can actually be substantiated. He published a book entitled *Military Practice and Polemic: Israel's Laws of Warfare in Near Eastern Perspective* (Andrews University Press) in 2005. That same year Hasel presented his findings to the Society of Biblical Lit-

erature, the largest professional society in biblical studies. This year that paper was published in a new volume, *Writing and Reading War*, ed. Brad Kelle and Frank Ames. SBL Symposium Series. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008), pp. 67-81 ([read it here](#)). The article documents how these practices

were not reflected in Assyrian sources, but the Assyrians systematically depicted and described trees standing after the sieges were completed. If Israel's laws of warfare are to be understood as a polemic, then the source for this polemic must be sought elsewhere.

New publications are now in progress. Currently, two books are being completed focusing on Eastern Mediterranean geographical and people names in Egyptian New Kingdom records. The understanding of how the Egyptians understood the territories around them will help delineate what is actually encountered in those countries when excavations take place. "The fact is that many sites are not identified until years after excavation has taken place. Knowing the Egyptian perception of the cities and territories in Canaan, Anatolia, and Cyprus will be a significant reference work for future site identification and historical reconstruction," said Hasel.

The publication endeavors of the Institute of Archaeology have been supported in part by the Fulbright Commission of the United States Department of State, the Burton and Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Excavation and Publication, the Archaeology Research Synchronism Foundation, and private donors that have provided significant library resources.



Recent Sightings

King Herod Revealed

(National Geographic)

Eight miles south of Jerusalem, where the last stunted olive trees and stony cornfields fade into the naked badlands of the Judaeen desert, a hill rises abruptly, a steep cone sliced off at the top like a small volcano. This is Herodium, one of the grand architectural creations of Herod the Great, King of Judaea, who raised a low knoll into a towering memorial of snowy stonework and surrounded it with pleasure palaces, splashing pools, and terraced gardens . . .

[*Click here to read more*](#)



Hoaxes from the Holy Land

(Los Angeles Times)

Israeli authorities called it “the fraud of the century”: fakes passed off as archaeological finds with biblical ties. The most notorious object was the James ossuary, a limestone box inscribed in Aramaic with the words “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.” Five men were charged, and the trial has been dragging on for three years. But it may all be crashing to a halt. A few weeks ago, the judge -- who is hearing the case without a jury -- told the government lawyers he’s not convinced the objects are forgeries and suggested they consider dropping the matter. If the authorities

can’t make their case, experts warn that the antiquities market -- and a proof-hungry religious public -- inevitably will be fed groundbreaking biblical “discoveries” as far-fetched as Solomon’s crown and Abraham’s sandals . . .

[*Click here to read more*](#)

New Evidence Surfaces of David’s Kingdom

(San Francisco Chronicle)

For 3,000 years, the 12-foot high walls of an ancient city have been clearly visible on a hill towering above the Valley of Elah where the Bible says David slew Goliath. But no one has ever linked the ruins to the city mentioned in the First Book of Samuel’s famous account of the legendary duel and the victory of the Israelites -- until now . . .

[*Click here to read more*](#)



Upcoming Events

Museum Lecture Series

February 19, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Lynn Wood Hall Chapel

Dr. Stan Hudson
Numismatist
Moscow, Idaho

“Tracing the Spread of Early Christianity Through Coins”

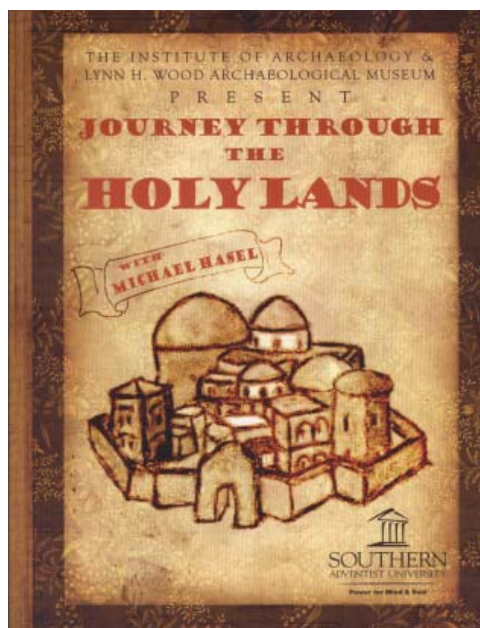
Museum Open House

February 19, 2009

5:00-6:45 p.m.

Hackman Hall

Join us in welcoming Dr. Hudson, visit the museum, see the special exhibition, and enjoy some Middle Eastern refreshments. This will be the last Museum lecture in relation to the “Faces of Power” exhibition.



Holy Lands DVD

Travel in time with Southern Adventist University professor Michael Hasel as he takes you to many landmarks found in the Old and New Testaments.

Cost: \$15 each (+ \$2.50 S&H)
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Scholarly Meetings

American Research Center in Egypt

Annual Meeting
April 24-26, 2009
Dallas, Texas

University of Haifa

International Conference
“Egypt, Canaan and Israel: History, Imperialism and Ideology”
May 3-9, 2009
Haifa, Israel

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